

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 00782 121519Z

43

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 PPTE-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 FBIE-00

DHA-02 NSC-05 /022 W

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P 121445Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8165

UNCLAS TANANARIVE 0782

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MA (HOLMES, ROFF ASALUSLWVA)

SUBJECT: W/W ROFF AND PRICILLA HOLMES

REF: STATE 113546

1. REVEREND AND MRS. HOLMES HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH EMBOFFS SINCE THEY ARRIVED IN TANANARIVE FROM FIANARANTSOA ON APRIL 5. THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO RECOVER THEIR PASSPORTS OR OBTAIN EXIT VISAS BECAUSE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS INFORMED THEM THAT THERE ARE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS PENDING. CASE APPARENTLY INVOLVES HOLMES' POSSESSION OF RADIO-RECEIVER AND MICROPHONE WHICH THEY BROUGHT INTO MADAGASCAR UPON ARRIVAL LAST APRIL 1975 AND WHICH THEY USE SOLELY FOR CHURCH SERVICES.

2. THE HOLMES HAVE BEEN HAVING DIFFICULTY CASHING CHECKS RECEIVED FROM THE STATES BUT WE HAVE INTERCEDED WITH LOCAL BANKS TO INSURE THAT THEY HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS. YESTERDAY (MAY 11) THEY RECEIVED CALL FROM NORTH CAROLINA FRIENDS WHO SAID THEY HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DEPARTMENT AND WERE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSMITTING ADDITIONAL FUNDS THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT TO THE EMBASSY. WE ARE NOT YET OFFICIALLY AWARE OF SUCH ARRANGEMENTS.

3. NEITHER HOLMES NOR CONSULAR OFFICER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN SPECIFICS OF JUDICIAL CHARGES AGAINST HOLMES BUT BOTH HAVE BEEN IN ALMOST DAILY CONTACT WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. SINCE WE APPEAR TO BE GETTING PERSISTENT STALL, CHARGE HAS RAISED SUBJECT WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS OF FOREIGN

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MINISTRY IN ORDER TO:

(A) OBTAIN CLARIFICATION OF SITUATION; AND

(B) DISCREETLY URGE GDRM THAT, IN VIEW OF SEEMINGLY TRIVIAL
MATTER OF CASE, HOLMES SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO DEPART MADAGASCAR
ASAP. CHARGE HAS ALSO REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTER OF
JUSTICE (WHO IS ALSO ACTING AS FOREIGN MINISTER BECAUSE OF
LATTER'S ABSENCE AT UNCTAD) WITHIN NEXT DAY OR TWO.

4. REVEREND AND MRS. HOLMES HAVE REVIEWED THIS CABLE, ARE
SATISFIED WITH ITS CONTENTS AND EMBASSY'S ACTIONS ON THEIR
BEHALF, AND HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER
DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR. SHEINBAUM

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